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NSC BRIEF Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001200010002-1

SINO-INDIAN BORDER

- I. Sino-Indian border impasse not materially effected by Peiping's 26 December note which repeated much of Chou En-lai's 17 December letter to Nehru and contained no new offer to facilitate negotiations.
- A. Chinese repeat their territorial claims and deny those of India.
- B. In again urging Nehru to "reach agreement on some principles" in an early meeting with Chou, the Chinese call on India to accept two "key points:"
1. The Chinese view that the entire border has never been delimited, and
 2. Chou's earlier proposal for a mutual withdrawal of frontier troops.
- II. Indian officials have publicly commented that the Chinese note only makes clear that both sides are opposed on almost every major question.
- A. Indians maintain that border, though undemarcated, is generally delimited--particularly in Assam area--and cannot accept Peiping's contention that it is not delimited.
- B. They previously have rejected ChiCom suggestion of a 12 1/2 mile withdrawal by both sides as "impractical."
- C. Nehru, who told Chou 21 December that a meeting now would be premature, while positions so far apart, probably will again turn down this suggestion but may propose lower level discussions.

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D. Nehru may delay formal reply until after Khrushchev's expected visit to New Delhi in February or March, hoping that K will exert additional influence in softening Chinese stand. (K expected in New Delhi in course of his trip to Indonesia.)

III. Both sides apparently hope to avoid more armed clashes and have told their border outposts to stop patrolling. However, Chinese operations against Tibetan rebels along the border could still cause trouble.

A. In Nepal, our sources have reported brief intrusions into Nepal by Chinese, but top Katmandu officials continue to deny incursions and maintain neutral position in Sino-Indian dispute.

B. There are indications Chinese are stepping up efforts to subvert tribal people across Nepalese frontier by exploiting their close ties with Tibet.

C. Indian officials have denied press report that Chinese groundfire was responsible for crash of C-47 on 3 January, while dropping supplies near Assam frontier.

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